

Page Denied

NOTE: MORE THAN ONE ITEM ATTACHED

623

ITEMPO 4957275 3401153Z FRP A31

STAT

DCI DESSEM
DCI
DDCI
EA/DCI
DDI
ADCI
D/CPAS
DD/CPAS
BRIEFERS
TIME

UNCLASSIFIED

FRP:

STATE

060115 EST

89 4957275 SUO

PAGE 001
TOR: 061053Z DEC 89NC 4957275
NICOSI 06002

DD RUEAIIA
DE RUEHNC #6882/01 3401020
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 061019Z DEC 89
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7410
INFO RUEHNE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 8181
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 1094
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE
BT
UNCLAS NICOSIA 06882

ROME FOR EMBASSY VATICAN

FROM BEIRUT SUPPORT OFFICE - SATTERFIELD

S/B-O: PLS ALERT NEA AT OOB

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON SITUATION REPORT -- 0900Z DECEMBER 6

I. EAST BEIRUT OBSERVERS SEE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.
- PROBABLE, BASED ON AMENDMENTS TO TAIF ACCORD
-

THE PRO-AQUN EAST BEIRUT PRESS HIGHLIGHTED REPORTS THAT
AQUN'S DECEMBER 6 STATEMENT THAT HE WAS "READY TO"

UNCLASSIFIED

623

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

89 4957275 500

PAGE 002
TOR: 061053Z DEC 89NC 4957275
NICOSI 06882

NEGOTIATE WITH SYRIA" CAME IN RESPONSE TO "INDIRECT U.S. MEDIATION EFFORTS BETWEEN AOUN AND SYRIA." ACCORDING TO EAST BEIRUT SOURCES, U.S. "WARNINGS" TO DAMASCUS NOT TO UNDERTAKE MILITARY ACTION, COUPLED WITH WHAT IS BEING VIEWED AS A BUSH-GORBACHEV "DECISION" THAT NO ATTACK ON THE ENCLAVE WOULD BE "PERMITTED," MEANT THAT THE U.S. "WILL NOT PERMIT ANY SOLUTION AT THE EXPENSE OF EITHER SYRIA OR THE LAF."

-- ACCORDING TO THE LATEST EAST BEIRUT "ANALYSIS," WASHINGTON'S "MEDIATION" IS BASED ON "THE PRINCIPLE DECLARED BY AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON: 'NO SOLUTION IN LEBANON WITHOUT GENERAL AOUN.'" SOURCES CLAIM THAT THE U.S. NOW REALIZES THAT A "CLARIFYING AMENDMENT" TO THE TAIF ACCORD IS NEEDED, TO PROVIDE A TIME LIMIT FOR FINAL SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. SUCH AN AMENDMENT WOULD RECOGNIZE SYRIAN DEFENSE INTERESTS IN LEBANON, AND WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY WASHINGTON IN EXCHANGE FOR "FLEXIBILITY" ON THE PART OF AOUN WITH RESPECT TO ALLOWING PRESIDENT HRAOUI TO OCCUPY BAABDA PALACE.

-- OTHER EAST BEIRUT SOURCES BELIEVE AN EXPANSION OF THE MOSS CABINET IS LIKELY, TO INCLUDE AOUN "MINISTER," ABU JAMRA. AOUN WOULD NOT HIMSELF PARTICIPATE, SINCE HE IS "GREATER THAN THE CABINET."

-- DEPUTY KATAEB PARTY LEADER MUNIR AL-HAJJ SAID THAT AOUN'S DECEMBER 4 STATEMENT WAS A "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, BECAUSE IT REFLECTS A DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY WHICH WAS NEEDED." AL-HAJJ CRITICIZED AOUN, HOWEVER, FOR POSSIBLY GOING TOO FAR IN THE DIRECTION OF ACCEPTING THE EXISTENCE OF "VITAL SYRIAN INTERESTS" IN LEBANON.

11. DEMONSTRATIONS DECLINE AT BAABDA; CONTINUE AT LF HQS

ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES AND EMBASSY BEIRUT PGV'S, THE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS AT BAABDA PALACE HAS DECLINED FROM A HIGH OF 70-100 THOUSAND TO A CURRENT LEVEL OF ONLY 2-3 THOUSAND DURING THE NIGHT AND MORNING, BUILDING TO

UNCLASSIFIED

2

623

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

89 4957275 SUO

PAGE 003

NC 4957275

TOR: 061053Z DEC 89

NICOSI 06082

5-7 THOUSAND IN THE AFTERNOON (WHEN BUSINESSES CLOSE), TO AS MANY AS 15 THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS ON SOME EVENINGS, WHERE A "PICNIC ATMOSPHERE" IS SAID TO PREVAIL.

THE DEMONSTRATIONS BEGUN DECEMBER 1-3 AT LEBANESE FORCES HEADQUARTERS IN SUPPORT OF LF COMMANDER SAMIR JA'JA' HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH DECEMBER 6. EXHORTATIONS BY GENERAL ADUN PREVIOUSLY CARRIED BY THE KATAEB AND LF RADIO STATIONS HAVE NOW SWITCHED TO CALLS FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND SACRIFICE ... BY JA'JA'.

III. SECURITY SITUATION

THE PAST TEN DAYS HAVE WITNESSED REGULAR EXCHANGES OF SHIPING, MACHINEGUN AND RPG FIRE ACROSS THE GREEN LINE, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR WHICH ADJOINS THE SUO AL-GHARB FRONT. ON DECEMBER 6, SHIPING IN THE SODECO-PRIMO-RAS AN-NABA' AREA DURING THE MORNING, EXPANDED TO RETURNING RPG, MORTAR AND (REPORTED BUT UNCONFIRMED) TANK FIRE BY ADUN'S FORCES ALONG BOTH SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL (MUSEUM-BARBIR) AREAS OF THE LINE. AROUND NOON, TWO POSSIBLE TANK ARTILLERY ROUNDS LANDED IN EAST BEIRUT (ASHRAFIYEH AND SIN AL-FIL) AND ONE ROUND IN WEST BEIRUT. THREE PERSONS WERE WOUNDED, PROPERTY DAMAGE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 NICOSIA 06082

ROME FOR EMBASSY VATICAN

FROM BEIRUT SUPPORT OFFICE - BATTERFIELD

8/6-0: PLS ALERT NEA AT 000

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PCOV, PREL. LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON SITUATION REPORT -- 0900Z DECEMBER 6

WAS REPORTEDLY MINOR. ALTHOUGH THE ARTILLERY ROUNDS (FIRST SINCE SEPTEMBER 23) CAUSED CONSIDERABLE PANIC, PARTICULARLY IN WEST BEIRUT, THE SITUATION QUIETED BY LATE AFTERNOON.

UNCLASSIFIED

3

623

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

89 4957275 300

PAGE 004

NC 4957275

TOR: 061053Z DEC 89

NICOSI 06882

NIX

END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

-0010

Wed Dec 06 07:31:28 1989

Page 1

RYRDIS

212

-LEBANON-1STLD (SCHEDULED)

Wed Dec 06 06:27:14 1989

LEBANESE PRESIDENT GIVES AOUN UP TO TWO WEEKS TO CAPITULATE:

By Zina Hemady

BEIRUT, Dec 6, Reuter - Lebanon's Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi has given defiant Christian General Michel Aoun a maximum of two weeks to capitulate.

"I am giving good faith efforts and mediation a period between one or two weeks to yield results," Hrawi said in a statement to Beirut's independent an-Nahar newspaper published on Wednesday.

The Maronite Christian president has pledged to topple Aoun by force if necessary to takeover the presidential palace in Christian east Beirut where the general has his bunker.

"The decisive means with which the legitimate government will confront those violating power will be within the legitimate measures it has," Hrawi added.

Aoun refuses to recognise the president, elected by Moslem and Christian members of parliament, on November 24. The general terms him a Syrian puppet.

Fears of Syrian military action to drive Aoun out of the shell-scarred palace in the Christian suburb of Ba'abda rose when Damascus sent 12,000 reinforcements into Lebanon last week, boosting its force there to 45,000.

Syrian forces, Lebanese army troops loyal to Hrawi and Moslem militiamen are ringing the Christian enclave where Aoun is backed by 15,000 mainly Christian soldiers of the army. He also receives backing from the 10,000-strong Christian Lebanese Forces militia.

"Ba'abda has become a symbol which no one will abandon. I will rule with my government from Ba'abda soon," Hrawi said.

"I again advise those who are aware of greater national issues that there is no other solution but to submit to legitimacy which I represent," he said.

Hrawi was quoted as saying on Tuesday that fears he would order Syrian troops into the enclave were totally unfounded. Diplomatic sources, however, have said Hrawi's troops were not strong enough on their own to thrust into the enclave.

Troops loyal to Hrawi and Aoun's soldiers fired tank and mortar shells across Beirut's sectarian divide on Tuesday in their fiercest clash so far. Syrian troops did not take part.

The firing revived memories of the six months of bloody battles which killed at least 850 people and were halted by an Arab-brokered ceasefire in September.

"I can't stand more fighting. I don't know what to do with my children and where to run to in this cold weather," said Yehya Hajj, the father of two girls aged two and four.

Diplomatic sources said it was impossible to tell if the clashes were triggered by tension on both sides or if they were meant deliberately to put military pressure on Aoun.

Albert Mansour, Defence Minister in Hrawi's cabinet, told the east Beirut-based newspaper ad-Diyar the government would try to resolve the crisis with Aoun peacefully first.

"I will use all the peaceful legitimate means to extend the

5

623

T20616

Wed Dec 06 07:31:28 1989

Page 2

government's authority. When we exhaust all means I will declare the measure which will be taken," he said.

"Legitimacy has the means strike out at rebellion at the lowest price possible and in the most efficient way. It will not be an operation which will start a new war but one which will allow the legitimate power to restore its authority," he said.

Political sources said France, the United States and the Vatican were trying to prevent fighting breaking out again.

Ad-Diyar said Washington and Paris were seeking to introduce clarifications into an Arab-brokered Lebanese peace plan which would satisfy Aoun's demands and be accepted by Syria.

Aoun rejected the plan because it did not give a clear timetable for a complete Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

Sources close to Aoun said the United States was holding indirect contacts with the general through the Lebanese ambassador in Washington.

Pro-Syrian Moslem political sources have said Syria was opposed to any change to the pact.

REUTER ZH AR JFB

NNNN

6

623

T20712

Wed Dec 06 07:36:38 1989

Page 1

FBIS

079

-LEBANON: AL-HIRAWI VOWS ARRIVAL AT B'ABDA PALACE

Wed Dec 06 07:29:44 1989

LD0612112589 KUWAIT KUNA IN ENGLISH 1030 GMT 6 DEC 89

[TEXT] KUWAIT, DEC 6 (KUNA) -- LEBANESE PRESIDENT ILYAS AL-HIRAWI AFFIRMED THAT HE WILL BE IN THE LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN B'ABDA IN DAYS, REVEALING THAT HE ORDERED ARMY COMMANDER GEN. EMILE LAHOUD TO PREPARE HIMSELF TO ENTER THE EASTERN PARTS OF THE LEBANESE CAPITAL OF BEIRUT.

THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT ADDED, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI DAILY AL-QABAS PUBLISHED HERE TODAY, THAT HE GAVE "A LIMITED AND PRECISE METHOD" FOR MEDIATIONS CARRIED OUT BY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY PARTIES. HE SAID "IF THAT PERIOD ENDED AND THE MEDIATIONS DID NOT REACH POSITIVE RESULTS THEN OTHER MEANS WILL BE USED. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE SUBJECT. HE ADDED DURING HIS INTERVIEW, THAT WAS HELD IN ABLAH MILITARY CAMP IN AL-BIQA', NORTH LEBANON, THAT HE PREFERS TO REACH B'ABDA PALACE WITH AN OLIVE BRANCH AND NOT WITH ARTILLERY. BUT HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THEN THOSE WHO WERE BEHIND IT WILL SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY.

AL-HIRAWI SAID THAT A RIFT WILL OCCUR SOON INSIDE MILITARY UNITS OPERATING IN EAST BEIRUT, AND NOTED THAT THOSE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OPERATING THERE "WILL FOLLOW THE LEGITIMATE LEADERSHIP" BECAUSE HE IS CONFIDENT OF THEIR LOYALTY TO THEIR COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT HE HAS "THE INFORMATION THAT PROMPT," BUT REFUSED TO GO INTO DETAILS.

THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO ENTER IN ANY "WRANGLE" WITH GEN. MICHEL 'AWN. AL-HIRAWI SAID THAT THE MILITIAS WILL BE DISSOLVED IN THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CABINET, AND IF ONE OF THOSE MILITIAS DID NOT FOLLOW ORDERS THEY WILL BE FORCED TO DO SO WITH APPROPRIATE MEANS AND MAYBE SYRIAN FORCES' AID WILL BE SEEKED ACCORDING TO THE AL-TA'IF AGREEMENT. "AND I PROMISE THAT THESE MILITIAS WILL BE REMOVED," HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT HE WANTS TO "NEGOTIATE" WITH SYRIA AS TWO INDEPENDENT STATES, BUT IF SYRIA'S REQUEST DOES NOT AGREE WITH LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE "THEN I WILL POLITELY TELL HER THAT THIS IS INAGREEABLE WITH ME". ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON, AL-HIRAWI PRAISED OPERATIONS OF THE RESISTANCE FORCES AGAINST THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION.

06 DEC 1226Z ADG

NNN

7

623

T20613

Wed Dec 06 07:31:13 1989

Page 1

FBIS

074

-LEBANON: AL-HIRAWI SAID TO PREPARE ARMY TO ENTER EAST AREAS

Wed Dec 06 06:26:27 1989

NC0612111289 CAIRO MENA IN ARABIC 1025 GMT 6 DEC 89

[TEXT] KUWAIT, 6 DEC (MENA)--LEBANESE PRESIDENT ILYAS AL-HIRAWI DISCLOSED THAT HE HAS INSTRUCTED ARMY COMMANDER EMILE LAHHUD TO GET READY TO ENTER BEIRUT'S EASTERN AREAS AND END THE EXISTING ANOMALOUS SITUATION THERE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WILL BE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE OF B'ABDA WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAIT'S AL-QABAS, PUBLISHED TODAY, THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAS GIVEN ALL MEDIATION EFFORTS A CHANCE. THE TIME ALLOWED FOR THESE MEDIATION EFFORTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY FRIENDLY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUARTERS HAS BEEN PRECISELY DETERMINED.

IN THE INTERVIEW, AL-HIRAWI CAUTIONED THAT SHOULD THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION FAIL THE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE SHOULDERED BY THE USURPER AND HIS FOLLOWERS. HE DENIED HAVING SOUGHT HELP FROM ANY MILITIA TO FORCE 'AWN LEAVE HIS ILLEGITIMATE POSITION.

THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT ALL MILITIAS WILL BE DISSOLVED DURING THE NEXT CABINET MEETING, WARNING THAT IF ANY MILITIA REFUSES TO HEED THE DISSOLUTION DECISION IT WILL BE QUELLED WITH THE APPROPRIATE MEANS, AND PERHAPS THIS WOULD REQUIRE SEEKING THE HELP OF THE SYRIAN FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AL-TA'IF ACCORD.

IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH AL-QABAS, PRESIDENT AL-HIRAWI AFFIRMED THAT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA WILL BE CONDUCTED ONLY BETWEEN THE LEBANESE AND SYRIAN GOVERNMENTS AND THAT HE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL TO TAKE PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

AL-HIRAWI SAID THAT THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES WILL BE BUILT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN COMMITMENT TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, NOTING THAT HE WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425.

THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE DOORS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ARE OPEN FOR [LEBANESE FORCES COMMANDER] SAMIR JA'JA', PARTICULARLY SINCE HE WANTS TO UNIFY THE STATE AND WILL WORK TO IMPLEMENT THE AL-TA'IF DECISIONS. [SENTENCE AS RECEIVED]

06DEC 1122Z WG

NNN

8

623

T20730

Wed Dec 06 07:45:36 1989

Page 1

FBIS

080

-LEBANON: AL-HIRAWI SAYS MILITIAS WILL BE DISSOLVED

Wed Dec 06 07:44:05 1989

NC0612123589 (CLANDESTINE) RADIO FREE LEBANON IN ARABIC 1145 GMT
6 DEC 89

[TEXT] PRESIDENT ILYAS AL-HIRAWI SAID: IF THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION FAILS, THEN WE WILL HOLD THE USURPER AND THOSE AROUND HIM RESPONSIBLE.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI PAPER AL-QABAS, HE SAID THAT HE HAS GIVEN A PRECISELY DETERMINED CHANCE TO THE MEDIATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY FRIENDLY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTIES. HE ADDED THAT IF THIS TIME LAPSES WITHOUT THESE MEDIATIONS REACHING POSITIVE RESULTS THEN HE WILL RESORT TO OTHER MEANS.

AL-HIRAWI ALSO SAID THAT THE DECISION TO DISSOLVE THE MILITIAS WILL BE MADE AT A FUTURE CABINET MEETING AND IF ANY OF THEM REFUSES TO HEED THE DECISION THEN IT WILL BE QUELLED WITH THE APPROPRIATE MEANS. HE ADDED THAT HE CAN ASK FOR THE HELP OF THE SYRIAN ARMY TO ACHIEVE THIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AL-TA'IF ACCORD.

06 DEC 1243Z AMF

NNN

9